

God's Anointing, Affirmations, and Enabling Have a Profound, Albeit Brief, Effect on Saul

1 Samuel 10:9-16

- Before Saul is identified to Israel as king, his actions continue to emphasize that God has chosen and enabled him to lead his people. This continues to portray the nature and purpose of, and response to, God's enabling, for Saul, and for us. When God does this, it is profound.
- I. The text recounts two events as Saul responds to Samuel's anointing, instructions, and affirming promises.
- Samuel has anointed Saul. He's told him there will be three affirming signs he will experience. Meeting two men at Rachel's tomb who tell him the donkeys have been found. Meeting three men going to Bethel who will give him bread. Coming to Gibeath-elohim and prophesying with the prophets. He's told him then do what his heart desires, God will be with him, and to wait seven days at Gilgal, where Samuel will sacrifice and further instruct him.
- A. Vs. 9-13 - God empowers Saul to prophesy among the prophets at Gibeah.
- **Vs. 9** - As Saul leaves Samuel (Still at Ramah, Samuel's hometown, 9:6, servant knowing.), God gives him another heart (Vs. 10 - Spirit rushed upon him. Language for salvation, or equipping? Spirit coming and going. More later.). All the signs come to pass (First two: He's told the donkeys are found and his dad's worried [Vs. 2.], and he meets the men going to Bethel who give him bread [Vs. 3-4.]).
 - **Vs. 10** - They (Servant, 9:27.) come to Gibeah (The hill. Hometown [Vs. 26.]. Vs. 5 - Gibeath-elohim.), a group of prophets meet him, the Spirit of God rushes upon him, and he prophesies among them (Third sign - Vs. 5-6. Musical instruments. It doesn't specify the nature of the prophecy, but it's God's purposeful doing.).
 - **Vs. 11** - Everyone who knows him says to one another, "What has come over the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets (Surprising. His life before was very different.)?" **Vs. 12** - A man of the place answers, "And who is their father (Who is their leader, why is Saul allowed to be with them? Or, do they have the prophetic spirit by virtue of their birth? Understood in this way, it's an appropriate answer to the surprise that Saul is prophesying. If they had not obtained the gift of prophecy by inheritance, but as a free gift of the Lord, then it was possible for the Lord to communicate the same gift to Saul.)?" Therefore it became a proverb, "Is Saul also among the prophets (The proverb carries the idea of something that is not likely to occur, for this was not like Saul.)?"
 - **Vs. 13** - Saul finishes prophesying and comes to the high place (Maybe he's thinking through all that's going on [Vs. 7 - Do what your hand finds to do, for God is with you.]. He also has two loaves of bread [Vs. 4.]).
- B. Vs. 14-16 - Saul tells his uncle about the donkeys and Samuel, but withholds the information related to being king.
- **Vs. 14** - Saul's uncle asks them where they went (Could be Ner, or Abner, depending on how you interpret a couple of passages. It's been overnight. Worrying.). Saul tells him they went to find the donkeys and ended up going to Samuel when they couldn't find them. **Vs. 15** - Saul's uncle asks him what Samuel said (Suggestions of the uncle thinking of Kish's wealth.). **Vs. 16** - Saul says Samuel told them the donkeys had been found. But about the matter of the kingdom, of which Samuel had spoken, he did not tell him anything (Samuel had told him to do whatever seemed appropriate. Here, he responds discreetly.).
- Instructions to wait (Vs. 8.) are not mentioned. In verse 17, Samuel is in Mizpah, identifying Saul to Israel as king.
- II. This portrays the nature and purpose of God's enabling. It applies to Saul uniquely, but its character is perpetual and profound, and relates to justification, Christian living and sanctification, and unique calling.
- 2 Pt. 1:3 - His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.
- A. He gives a new heart, he makes us different than we were, and his Spirit tangibly and uniquely dwells and empowers.
- He does this in the new creation in salvation (2 Co. 5:17). In the OT, there is a category for God's Spirit doing this non-salvifically, which may be true here. But it doesn't take away from the reality we know.
 - It may have been God giving to Saul what he lacked naturally, to have the disposition to fulfill the tasks of a king.
- B. His enabling affirms and fulfills his calling.
- Ep. 2:10 - For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- C. He is free to call and enable as he chooses, for it is all of his grace.
- 1 Co. 12:11 - All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. Ro. 9:21 - Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? But, he responds to believers who desire him and desire to be faithful.
- D. His calling and enabling has purpose.
- Ga. 1:15-16 - He set me apart before I was born, and called me by his grace, and was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles...
- E. He provides humility and wisdom.
- Ga. 6:14 - But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Ep. 1:17 - That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him.
- F. It is a great privilege to be called and enabled by him.
- 1 Co. 15:10 - But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.
- G. What he says will happen will happen. He will do what he says he will do. His promises are true.
- 1 Th. 5:24 - He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.
- H. The potential for God using us for his glory is compelling.
- Ph. 1:20 - As it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.
- III. There are three categories worth noting for application.
- A. Saul's immediate and ongoing heart and actions will portray both a response to, and a rejection of, God's call and enabling.
- It's positive here, but soon (Vs. 22), and later, not. Tension of sovereignty and responsibility as there is no excuse and he is responsible for his failures later. Starting well and ending terribly. Saved?
- B. But as always, seeing this causes us to look beyond Saul and everyone else, to Jesus.
- In 16:13, as Saul is rejected for his disobedience and unbelief, David will be anointed. But David will fail too. He. 3:2 - Jesus was faithful to him who appointed him. Is. 42:1 - Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. 1 Pt. 3:18 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God. Co. 1:13 - He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
- C. So we have opportunity and responsibility to appropriate these realities.
- Actually experiencing the reality of promises. The inseparable relationship between new creation and fruit. (Jn. 15:5 - I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.). Don't be someone who starts well but falls. We have so much more. Understand the gravity, glory, and purpose of God's call and enabling, beginning in justification, in walking with Christ and bringing glory to him, and in whatever he calls us to do (2 Co. 4:7 - But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.). Trust in grace (2 Co. 12:9 - My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.).